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PATENT

Attorney Docket Number: 03-31-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

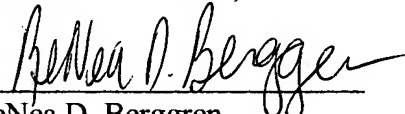
In re Application of : Smith, J. et al.  
Serial Number : 10/603,280  
Confirmation Number: 4443  
Filed : June 25, 2003  
For : Plate Joiner

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. BOX 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. §1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date below in a First Class envelope, with sufficient postage thereon, addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
ReNea D. Berggren

DATED: October 26, 2004.

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**RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED  
JULY 29, 2004**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 29, 2004, for which the three-month shortened statutory period is set to expire on October 29, 2004. While it is believed that no fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to grant any needed extension of time and to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4882.

Entry of the Amendment and consideration of the Remarks that follow is respectfully requested.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.